# Dormancy, buds, sap and pruning!

Despite current snow on the ground and the wintery mix of weather we have been experiencing, spring is not far around the corner. On the calendar it is officially only about a week and a half away. As arborists, we keep a close eye on tree buds as they begin to swell and open rather than the calendar. Almost four weeks ago we had no snow and warm temperatures that were pushing buds to early stages of unfurling. From what I have seen the setback into snow and cold temps have not had significant impact to most trees. Conifers are fine but some deciduous trees such as Silver Maples might have issues later in the year as their protective bud scales have begun to open during that mild February weather. Either way, it is time to get those fruit trees done. Dormancy for most trees and plants are shortening every day. The big “Wake Up” is only three to four weeks away by my count. This is an opportune time to do fruit tree pruning as well as formative and structure pruning to ornamental trees and even those larger shade trees. People often state that they want pruning done before the sap is up. Warm days with above freezing temps will already be allowing water, nutrients and sugars to be flowing. This translocation is already happening. In my home state of Michigan, most of the folks who produce Maple Syrup have already opened their camps and tapped their Sugar Maples xylems to collect this sap. It will be boiled down to produce one of nature’s sweetest products. Many varieties of Maple and Birch here produce sap that will flow when they are pruned this time of year as well. This greatly alarms people unfamiliar with this spectacle. If the tree is healthy and not over pruned, this dripping sap will have no overall consequence to the trees health.

Regardless of the weather and snow we are out pruning daily to beat the dormancy clock! Give us a call today for further questions, quotes or consultations!